



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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U K R A I N E

Mission Director Launches Local Economic Development Project in Sumy

Mission Director Earl Gast and Sumy Mayor Hennadiy Minayev launched USAID's thirty-second Local Economic Development (LED) project in Ukraine on April 12 and attended the first working meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee in Sumy. A letter of cooperation between USAID and Mayor was signed.

Speaking at the project's launch, Mr. Gast said, "The project will help to identify those assets in Sumy that are available for development, focus on their potential, and decide how to make them most productive in terms of adding jobs and promoting investments in the city."



Earl Gast (left) speaking at the project's launch with Sumy Mayor Hennadiy Minayev

During a working meeting, LED Project Director Howard Ockman explained the process of strategic planning, introduced the project agenda to the Committee Members, including city administration officials, private business and civil society.

In addition to launching Sumy's LED project, Mission Director Gast also met with the Sumy Oblast deputy governor, and attended two roundtables with NGOs and media on the MCC Threshold Country Program.

Ukraine's First Lady Greets Health Providers from Georgia and Ukraine During Training on Effective Perinatal Care

A training course on "Effective Perinatal Care" for health providers from Georgia -- including the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia -- and Ukraine, took place in Zhytomyr, Ukraine, on April 16. The training was conducted within the framework of the USAID/Ukraine Maternal and Infant Health Project, which has been implementing effective modern technologies since 2002.

Kateryna Yushchenko, wife of the President of Ukraine, and Mariella Tefft, spouse of the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia, welcomed the training course participants.



Kateryna Yushchenko greets training participants

In partnership with the Ministries of Health of Georgia and Ukraine, the private sector and NGOs, USAID is striving to make internationally accepted, evidence-based technologies for mother and infant care available throughout Ukraine and Georgia.

In four years of work in Ukraine, MIHP has been able to produce some outstanding successes. The project has already helped to bring about a

30% reduction in infant mortality, virtually eliminated hypothermia among newborns, and reduced child abandonment in all participating sites.

Association of Ukrainian Cities Offers Media Training

On March 29, USAID's Expanding Training and Advocacy Services Project conducted a training session for regional mass media on "Current Standards of Journalism." Senior editors and reporters who write on local government from 14 oblast and municipal periodicals participated in the event.

The Association of Ukrainian Cities organized this first training session for journalists, aiming to assist regional and local mass media in reviewing modern professional standards.



AUC representative Valeriy Mykhailenko addresses local journalists

"Similar events would be very useful. I would like to keep studying," explained Volodymyr Perminov, senior editor of the *Dnipropetrovskyi Prospekt* newspaper.

Upcoming Events

April 25, UCAN, Roundtable on "Legal Aspects of Revenue Generating Activities," Kyiv.

April 25, Health Policy Initiative, Meeting of the Ukrainian Multisectoral Working Group on Biosecurity at Poultry Farming, Kyiv.

April 26, Trade, Investment and Business Acceleration Project (TIBA), Round Table for Journalists on "Regulatory Reform," Kyiv.

April 26, Expanding Training and Advocacy Services Project, Workshop on "Legal Support of City Council's Work," Khorol, Poltava oblast.

April 27, Ukraine Rule of Law Project, Seminar "Specific Issues Related to the Adjudication of Administrative cases," Kyiv.

April 27, Parliamentary Development Project, Interns Program at the Verkhovna Rada: Policy Analysis Seminar. Certificate Award Ceremony, Kyiv.

April 28-29, U-Media Project, Training for Students on "Journalistic Standards," Kyiv.

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M O L D O V A

USAID Project Assists Banks in Introducing a New Financial Product in Moldova

In April the Competitiveness Enhancement and Enterprise Development Project (CEED) helped two leading Moldovan banks launch a new financial product called Purchase Order Finance (POF).



A Fincombank credit officer, participant in CEED's hands-on POF training.

The first four pilot POF loans, totaling \$500,000, have been already disbursed by the two banks, Fincombank and Mobiasbanca.

The new loan product allows businesses to buy raw materials, packaging, inputs, trade goods, etc., in order to fill larger and/or more frequent orders from customers. POF will help Moldovan enterprises gain greater access to financing and attract new buyers, thereby increasing sales on domestic and export markets, and enhancing company growth and competitiveness.

USAID's CEED Project is a market demand driven project that seeks to enhance the competitiveness of Moldovan private sector enterprises within the global market, with an emphasis on textile and apparel, information and communications technology, and winemaking.

Upcoming Events

April 25, Rule of Law Program, Training for ABA/CEELI Legal Clinics, Chisinau.

April 27, Rule of Law Program, Moldova Bar Association Congress, Chisinau.

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BELARUS

USAID-Funded Volunteers Help Belarusian Farmers

On April 13, U.S. Ambassador to Belarus Karen Stewart visited two local, private farms that have received technical assistance through USAID's Agribusiness Volunteer Program (AVP).

The trip included a stop at one farm currently hosting an American volunteer, Kholodon-Agro Farm, and another stop at a farm that successfully used the volunteer assistance program several years ago. Owners and managers at both agricultural organizations shared their impressions and explained the successes they

have achieved by using American volunteers to help their farms develop.

Kholodon-Agro Farm is a newly-privatized collective farm that specializes in grain and dairy livestock production. Jerry Grigar, a private farmer from Michigan, has taught his Belarusian counterparts how to operate new equipment the farm has purchased, and is currently assisting the farm with spring sowing.



Rick McGuire (right), volunteer from California, consults on dairy herd management

Increased production, sales and overall efficiency at Kholodon-Agro Farm have turned it from a loss-making operation into a profit generating enterprise, thus sustaining the livelihood of over 300 farm workers and their families. Project-inspired investments in dairy, feed quality, and crop production have led to a twofold increase in total revenues from sales of milk, meat, vegetables and other commodities. No less important, farm management has been able to increase monthly wages.

The AVP program in Belarus is currently focusing its volunteer assistance efforts on improving the performance of privatized collective farms with an overall goal of increasing the incomes of their owners and employees and establishing models of successful private enterprise activity throughout the country.

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